

These are minor points as the editor's task of producing a book to cover not only the nursing but also the diseases of children and yet to keep the cost within the limits of a nurse's pocket, cannot have been easy.

All contributors are members of the staff of the Hospital for Sick Children, Great Ormond Street, and consequently the teaching is essentially as practised at that hospital, which for basic training in nursing might be equalled elsewhere but surely could not be bettered.

DEFICIENCY DISEASES IN JAPANESE PRISON CAMPS

(M.R.C. Special Report Series No. 274)

By D. A. SMITH, O.B.E., M.A., M.D., D.T.M. & H., and M. F. A. WOODRUFF, M.D., M.S., F.R.C.S. Pp. viii + 209, with 5 illustrations. London: H.M.S.O., 1951. 6s. 6d.

During their captivity, Australian and British medical and lay personnel studied the effects of prolonged and severe under-nutrition upon themselves and other prisoners of war. This report of their work is excellent. The clear and concise style of the authors excites attention. The results of their work command interest and supply a considerable volume of information on many aspects of the effects of malnutrition in the Far East.

CIBA FOUNDATION:

COLLOQUIA ON ENDOCRINOLOGY

Vol. I—Steroid Hormones and Tumour Growth Steroid Hormones and Enzymes

Edited by the General Editor for the Ciba Foundation, G. E. W. WOLSTENHOLME, O.B.E., M.A., M.B., B.Ch. Pp. xx + 315 with 48 illustrations. London: J. & A. Churchill Ltd. 1952. 30s.

The Ciba Foundation was founded in 1949 as an international centre where medical and chemical research workers are encouraged to meet informally to exchange ideas and information.

Volume I of the 'Colloquia on Endocrinology' contains the proceedings of two of these informal meetings. The first one covers the induction of malignant growth by steroids, with special reference to the mammary gland. It touches upon the clinical use of steroids in cancer therapy and deals also with the chemical and metabolic effects of ACTH and cortisone in neoplastic disease. The second meeting deals with steroid hormones and enzymes, mainly B-blycuronidase.

The subject matter of the papers and discussion, as well as the full references, should be of interest to the laboratory research worker in this field rather than to the clinician.

Proceedings of the THIRD INTERNATIONAL CONGRESS of the INTERNATIONAL SOCIETY of HAEMATOLOGY

Edited by a committee headed by C. V. MOORE.
Pp. xvii + 503, illustrated. London: William
Heinemann Ltd. 1951. 70s.

The 203 papers read at the Cambridge Congress of the International Society of Haematology in August 1950 are collected in this handsome volume which will be welcomed by everybody who is interested in the various aspects of disorders of the blood, immuno-haematology and coagulation. It reflects fairly the renaissance of haematology and its progress during the last few years. Unlike in many other field of medicine, we have come a long way since Virchow first described leukaemia in 1845 and Addison in 1868 described pernicious anaemia, which is really no longer pernicious. The isolation and properties of vitamin B₁₂ were described in the first paper of the Congress by its discoverer, E. Lester Smith, and more than a dozen other papers deal with macrocytic anaemia. Haemolytic anaemia and hypersplenism are the subject of several others. The second main section is devoted to blood groups, agglutinins, antibodies and their interactions. Unfortunately, J. J. van Loghem's review is not included. He said that research in blood groups today resembled the gold rush of other days. So far eight different systems have been identified and between them they provided 70,000 serological combinations, although some of them were not compatible with life. It seemed that Landsteiner's saying that blood groups are as individual as finger prints was true after all. The third main section deals with leukaemia and related diseases. In spite of many advances in the fields of experimental pathology, histo-chemistry, clinical research and therapeutic approach the cause of leukaemia remains unknown and it is still an incurable disease. Except in acquired haemolytic syndromes occurring in leukaemia or related disorders, ACTH and cortisone was reported by most workers to be most disappointing. The section on coagulation, purpura and related subjects shows that an enormous amount of work has been done and is still done on clotting and clotting factors, but one cannot help wondering whether theory has sometimes been allowed to run wild at the expense of practice. The multiplicity of names for clotting factors is certainly confusing.

The appendices record the scientific exhibits shown at the Congress and the list of officers and constitution of the International Society of Haematology. These are followed by author and subject indices. The book is a credit to the society, the publishers, and particularly to C. V. Moore, the editor, and his committee. Almost like the Congress itself, it is bibliography come to life.

E.N.